

2024 Illinois State Water Plan Annual Update

Summary of Recommendations										Previous Update: 10/30/2025
SWP Contact - Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov										Current Update: 1/1/2026
Task	Task Contact	Est. % Comp.	Est. Date Comp.	Description of Status	Funding Needs	Restrictions / Obstructions	Priority			
Water Quality										Updated
Jeff Edstrom – Jeffrey.edstrom@illinois.gov										10/2/2025
1	Support Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy implementation	IDOA	75%	ongoing	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and University of Illinois Extension, with input and feedback from the Policy Working Group and several other stakeholder groups and councils. In 2025, under the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, statewide annual point source loads have been reduced by 8.3 million pounds of phosphorus (46%)—achieving the final goal a year ahead of the 2025 interim target—and by 8.8 million pounds of nitrogen (10%)					
2	The state should support and advocate for a doubling of state and federal agency Green Infrastructure and water quality programs (e.g., GIGO and Section 319 NPS). Program projects should be prioritized where the highest water quality benefits can be achieved, especially if located in disadvantaged communities.	IEPA, Christine Davis, christine.davis@illinois.gov	40%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA supports increasing funding for nonpoint source pollution reduction and flood prevention by trying to maximize federal grant awards to Illinois and including a Green Project Reserve (GPR) requirement whereby Illinois EPA utilizes not less than 10% of Capitalization Grant funds to provide continued support for projects or project components focused on "green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities". The Illinois EPA funds between \$3 and \$4 million annually for the 319 NonPoint Source program, and this amount represents the third highest level of funding among all states and is set by the federal government. This also translates to approximately 2.5 million per year in local match. The Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunity (GIGO) program is focused on supporting infrastructure that manages stormwater in a way that preserves, restores, mimics, or enhances natural hydrology. Projects funded during that time have resulted in average pollutant load reductions of approximately 7,500 pounds of phosphorus, 21,000 pounds of nitrogen, and 7,500 tons of sediment over that time. BMPs lifespans are roughly 10 years, so those are multiplied over time. The state has funded about \$19 million worth of green infrastructure projects through IGIG and GIGO. with about \$4 million in local match. Environmental justice					
3	Support voluntary nutrient reduction programs and focus on underserved communities	IEPA, Jeff Edstrom, jeffrey.edstrom@illinois.gov	35%	ongoing	The Federal Nonpoint Source Program is requiring a focus on outreach to underserved communities. The Illinois NPS Program is developing a new section for the program report with a focus on environmental justice issues.					
4	State funds should be provided for the continued operation of USGS "Super Gages" to provide the data necessary to determine if interim and long-term goals of Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy are being realized.	IEPA, Trevor Sample, trevor.sample@illinois.gov	50%	ongoing	IEPA recently secured federal funding for the next five years from the Gulf Hypoxia Program funds. IEPA is providing \$256,000 over the next two years to maintain gauges on streams that flow to the Mississippi River. There are plans to continue supporting these gauges for at least the three years following and seek additional funding at the conclusion of the current funding cycle.					
5	Illinois should continue to conduct and expand Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring and safety notification efforts and integrate this monitoring through participation in USGS's 10-year "Next Generation Water Observing System" in the Illinois River Basin.	IEPA, Alexandrea Terlep, alexandrea.terlep@illinois.gov , Nicole Vidales, nicole.vidales@illinois.gov	20%	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illinois EPA has created a Cyanobacteria Bloom Dashboard webpage/portal to update the public on reported bloom locations across Illinois and provide educational information about HABs and Agency contact information. HAB Unit staff dispensed HAB sampling kits to FOS and GWS and are working to train staff to respond to a potential HAB and conduct follow up sampling. Working to enhance Agency coordination and communication resulting in more efficient response to bloom events. Acquire staff and train on existing Agency Programs. Once trained, begin to investigate ongoing external efforts and technologies, and possible intersections with Agency monitoring and response efforts. 					
6	PFAS and contaminant monitoring in fish	Jewel Brandt, IEPA, Jewel.Brandt@illinois.gov , Daniel James, IEPA, Daniel.James@illinois.gov	100%	End of October 2024	The Illinois EPA, Illinois DNR, and Illinois Department of Public Health began statewide monitoring for PFAS in fish tissue in 2023 as part of a fish tissue analysis program. The IEPA laboratory undertakes analysis on fish tissue samples as workload allows and as fish tissue samples are provided by IDNR. IEPA laboratory uses Method 1633 to analyze for 34 PFAS analytes as well as PCBs. Under normal circumstances, 2 years of results from the same species/same waterbody are required to determine if meal advisories are warranted for PFAS contamination. IEPA and IDNR plan to collect and analyze about 250 composite samples per year from the network of waterbodies on a 3–5-year rotation.					
7	State funds should be provided to expand the ambient groundwater monitoring network to assess the overall conditions of statewide groundwater resource quality (i.e., ambient conditions) for focus or intensive evaluation of chronic or emerging conditions (e.g., Nitrate Trend Network, Chromium 6 project, Chloride Trend Network, VOC Trend Network, Statewide PFAS Network and pesticides).	Anthony Dulka, anthony.dulka@illinois.gov , IEPA, Alan Fuhrmann, alan.fuhrmann@illinois.gov , IEPA	40%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA operates an Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network consisting of approximately 360 Community Water Supply (CWS) wells. This Ambient Groundwater Monitoring program was developed as a random stratified network to represent all active CWS wells. The goal of this network is to represent the detection of pesticides and other chemical contamination in the entire population of CWS wells across the state and to monitor the conditions of the different aquifers to assess the chemical composition and overall quality of the water over time. The wells are distributed throughout a fixed network of 17 three-week periods and have been sampled every other year since 1996. However, no Ambient Groundwater monitoring was conducted in 2020, and much of the downstate network wells (lower 2/3 of the state) were not sampled in 2022 and 2024. The well samples are analyzed for inorganic chemicals (IOC) and volatile organic/aromatic compounds (VOC) every two years, and they are sampled for synthetic organic compounds (SOC) every four years.					
8	Protect and Restore Upper MS River	Dave Glover, Dave.Glover@illinois.gov and Rick Pohlman, Rick.Pohlman@illinois.gov	0%							
9	Outreach for proper well abandonment and water supply protection for public and private wells	IDPH	0%		The Illinois Water Well Construction Code requires the owner of a water well, boring or monitoring well to properly seal the well within 30 days after it is abandoned and no longer used to supply water. If a well or boring is in such a state of disrepair that it has the potential for transmitting contaminants into the groundwater or otherwise threatens the public health or safety, it also must be sealed. The Groundwater Protection Act mandates that where an abandoned well is found to contaminate another potable water well, the owner of the abandoned well is responsible for providing a safe and sufficient supply of water to the owner of the well that has been contaminated. The basic concept in sealing an abandoned well is restoring the geological conditions that existed before the well was drilled. Therefore, the particular method for sealing a well depends on the type of water well and the local geological features.					
10	Support underserved small public water system infrastructure improvements	IDNR-OWR	30%		The Illinois EPA currently provides some limited technical assistance support for underserved community water systems. The IEPA SRF drinking water loan program has been providing technical assistance to public water supply systems since 2019 through a contract with the Illinois Rural Water Association. The effort is paid for by using a portion of the annual federal capitalization grant. Focusing a portion of available funding towards technical assistance, direct funding for planning and investigative actions, capacity development activities, or any similar assistance increases the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of drinking water, wastewater or stormwater systems and should be encouraged by all State agencies. This recommendation will require a multi-year effort to establish additional/new long-term financial support tools necessary to fully implement this recommendation.					
11	The state should investigate the development of an assistance program for the regionalization of small public water systems.	IEPA, Nidhan Singh, nidhan.singh@illinois.gov	30%		IEPA is in the process of creating a new section comprised of staff who will provide direct technical assistance to public water systems. See the Long-Term Funding Recommendations for "Technical and financial support for underserved communities using the Local Assistance Program" for additional information					
12	The state should provide technical assistance or funding for capacity development for small public water systems to develop long term technical, financial, and managerial resiliency.	IEPA, Nidhan Singh, nidhan.singh@illinois.gov	50%							
13	Expand stream and groundwater monitoring to test for emerging WQ issues	ISWS	10%		Central to the Illinois EPA's monitoring program is the assessment of lakes and streams. For the 2020/2022 reporting the IEPA monitored 18,508 stream miles and 159,510 lake acres for impairments of designated uses. The Illinois EPA also deploys its monitoring personnel and other resources in a way tailored to the project or					

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14	Water Quality Outreach and Education through IWIC	ISWS	10%		establish and fund this center to be a library of water science-based information and technology accessible by Illinois' decision makers, program managers, emergency managers, community officials, home and business owners, and the public.			

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Climate Change Dave Kristovich - dkristo@illinois.edu							
Y							Updated 1/12/2026
1	Jennie Atkins jatkins@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it; ISWS is partnering with UIUC's Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences (CLIMAS) in developing the Illinois 3D Mesonet. Held a statewide meeting in April 2025 to discuss climate data needs. Federal earmark for pilot project to be submitted by UI next federal budget cycle. Currently searching for Mesonet Executive Director. Hired Mesonet Operations Director. Building a Mesonet External Advisory Board of potential governmental, industry, and NGO stakeholders.	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
2	Trent Ford twford@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it. Currently working with IEMA, IDPH, and scientists at UIUC, with some NOAA funding, to continue developing the state Climate Dashboard/Portal. Beta versions online will be available in the spring.	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
3	Trent Ford twford@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
4	Dave Kristovich dkristo@illinois.edu	15%	after 12/2025	research plan developed, seeking funding for it. NSF proposal to examine winter hazards will be resubmitted in 2025.	5-year, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
5	Dave Kristovich dkristo@illinois.edu	20%	after 6/2025	research on convective storm climate interactions with Chicago is underway under NSF funding; Long-term trend analysis requires additional funding.	continuous, state	NSF funds limited to one climate impact.	
6	Dave Kristovich dkristo@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2025	Proposal submitted for tool development to aid farmers in limiting dicamba spray drift.	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
7	Trent Ford twford@illinois.edu	100%	completed	Completed			
8	Trent Ford twford@illinois.edu	100%	3/1/2025	Completed 3/2025			
9	Trent Ford twford@illinois.edu	0%		no progress			
10	Trent Ford twford@illinois.edu	0%		NOAA-funded project to better understand and measure flash drought			
11	Dave Kristovich dkristo@illinois.edu	0%	uncertain	no progress, seeking funding sources	3 to 5-year, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
Integrated Water Management Wes Cattoor - wes.cattoor@illinois.gov							
Y							Updated 1/6/2026
1	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	20%		Kickoff meeting held, coordination with Internet of Water to provide assistance in structure			2
2	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	100%		Completed 2024, Effective 2025			1
3	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	50%		Confirmed distressed community consistent is Department's OSLAD grant definition. Directive give to focus on distressed communities for non-stated owned projects and non-federal projects			3
4	Rick Pohlman rick.pohlman@illinois.gov	75%		IDNR has developed a draft OWR Local Assistance Program strategy to utilize existing personnel resources and capacity. Program undergoing internal review.			5
5	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	5%		Initial discussions with GOMB have begun about how to proceed.			6
6	Steve Altman steve.altman@illinois.gov	20%		IDNR and IEMA are working with the Illinois Finance Authority to develop a state stormwater revolving loan fund program (without legislation) and the necessary regeneration and expansion of the IMAG team.			7
7	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	100%		Economically distressed Communities as defined by 17Ill. Adm. Code 3025.36 Distressed Communities' Definition and Criteria. Completed 10/2025			4
Long Term Funding Nidhan Singh - Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov							
N							Updated 10/2/2025
1	IDNR	60%		A Water Resources state fund was specifically established in statute in 2024 as part of the Carbon Sequestration Act. A legislative proposal has been drafted to potentially direct existing revenue streams into the Water Resources Fund for Water Resources purposes.			
2	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	50%		Illinois Finance Authority has received authority to proceed. Program framework is required.			
3	IDNR	10%		A Water Resources state fund was specifically established in statute in 2024 as part of the Carbon Sequestration Act. A legislative proposal has been drafted to potentially direct existing revenue streams into the Water Resources Fund for Water Resources purposes.			
4	Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov	0%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA supports greater use of Asset Management systems and Fiscal Sustainability Plans. The Illinois EPA routinely encourages communities/water systems by awarding extra points during the SRF evaluation process. Other States have mandated the use of Asset Management systems to qualify for SRF loans or simply as part of normal operations. That authority doesn't exist in Illinois at this time.	TBD	Lack of state-wide legislation that would require AM and Fiscal Sustainability plans; IEPA can only encourage applicants. Small communities lack the financial/human resources to adequately produce such plans at	

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5	Technical and financial support for underserved communities using the Local Assistance Program	Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov	75%	ongoing	IEPA SRF drinking water loan program has been providing technical assistance to public water supply systems since 2019 through a contract with the Illinois Rural Water Association. The effort is paid for by using a portion of the annual federal capitalization grant. Focusing a portion of available funding towards technical assistance, direct funding for planning and investigative actions, capacity development activities, or any similar assistance increases the technical, financial, and	TBD	IEPA SRF is currently partnering with USEPA and IRWA to provide technical and financial assistance
6	The state should undertake a comprehensive, state-wide evaluation of current operations to identify technology that optimizes and streamlines state agency operations for water resource management recommendation implementation.	Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov	25%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA is seeking proposals for a new Environmental Information Management System (EIMS). The system will replace outdated paper-based processes and siloed databases with a unified digital platform across all agency programs. EIMS will streamline permitting, compliance, enforcement, and financial oversight, while improving data quality, accessibility, and transparency for both staff and the regulated community. The SWPTF should discuss areas where Agencies can evaluate operations and report on new technology being deployed as well as areas where there is a pressing need for new technology.	TBD	Currently an ongoing effort; within the SRF program, loan database is heavily utilized in consolidating and organizing loan recipient data.
7	Support Public-Private Partnerships	IDNR	0%				
8	Enact stamps or license fees to generate targeted funds	IDNR	5%		A legislative proposal has been drafted to potentially generate new revenue streams into the Water Resources Fund for Water Resources purposes.		
Water Sustainability Wei Han - Wei.Han2@Illinois.gov							
1	Prioritize services to underserved communities	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	50%	12/31/2025	OWR staff has reviewed federal definition of underserved communities and are currently evaluating tools to determine underserved or disadvantaged community status. (4-15-2024) It is recommended that Economically Distressed Communities as defined by 17Ill. Adm. Code 3025.36 Distressed Communities' Definition and	\$0	OWR Staff Availability
2	Determine sustainable water yield for all water supply sources and share online	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	100%	4/1/2025	Completed 7/2024		2
3	Establish and support regional water supply committees	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	60%	6/30/2025	6 of 10 regions implemented, or is implementing this year. The 5 planned regions cover 93% Illinois population. From population point of view, this task is 93% completed. (7-1-2024) Heartlands Conservancy has expressed interest in water supply planning for American Bottom Region, which has not conducted planning yet.	\$36,000 annually/region	Funding and staffing levels
4	Study evaporation impacts from climate change	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	25%	6/30/2027	Study of this recommendation is ongoing under OWR-450 which started April 1, 2025.	Estimated \$125,000 (FY25 - 27)	Staffing availability at the IL State Water Survey
5	Develop minimum stream flow protection for during emergencies	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	25%	6/30/2027	Need to determine all parties to be involved in this evaluation. A 1991 report made by Illinois Instream Flow Protection Committee to the governor and Illinois General Assembly has been reviewed. The committee was formed through legislation to study instream use conflict within Illinois and identify a program for the	Estimated \$125,000 (FY25 -	Participant Availability
6	Update IL Drought Preparedness and Response Plan	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	10%	12/31/2030	Need to evaluate when this can be completed. It is also determined that each water supply planning region needs to have its own Drought Response Plan. (10-5-2023) In September 2023, OWR participated Midwest DEWS Drought Planning Discussion organized by Midwest Dews/NIDIS, where Missouri and Iowa updated	tbd	OWR Staff Availability
7	Improve water use accuracy with outreach and metering	Zhenxing Zhang zhang538@Illinois.edu	5%	6/30/2025	Coordination with USGS to install metering in Mason Co. (1-3-2025) 10-1-2025 updated ISWS contact for this task.	\$50,000	Funding in FY28-29
Lake Michigan Meg Kelly - meg.kelly@illinois.gov							
1	Outreach about Lake MI programs using the Local Assistance Program	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	60%	12/31/2024	Sent out a survey to all permitted Lake Michigan water allocates about ongoing Water Improvement Planning work.		1
2	Improve water allocation reporting	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	5%	ongoing	Russell met with IL section of AWWA who are in charge of the water audit software that water and public works operators use for monthly/yearly audit reporting for water usage, meter replacement, pipe replacement, leakage detection, production price of water. IDNR is trying to focus on trend analysis and a non-revenue water loss and to make reporting easier for permittees. OWR wants to work with ISWS to develop portal.	Funding is there but don't have personnel	Staff capacity
3	Update Rules regarding water loss and conservation	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	0%	ongoing	House bill 3046 that would repeal the prohibition on water re-use and using grey water for commercial enterprise.		
4	Expand Lake MI programs and prioritize services to underserved communities	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	50%		Trying to find and steer funding from grant opportunities, EPA funding, mesh lead pipe replacement with some of their gen infrastructure replacement. Hopefully partnership w Chicago - interested in outreach.		1
5	Implement water allocation review fees to fund Lake MI Water Allocation Programs	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	30%		Sent a white paper to send to Governors Staff about requirements, roadblocks, and positive contributions of a Lake Michigan Water Allocation fee that is a possibility for legislative session next year.		Not viewed favorably by communities
6	Establish workgroup for Lake MI water diversion	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	20%		Working closely with the ISAWWA and partner communities regarding water conservation. IDNR is joining the City of Chicago Water management Lake Michigan advisory group. Chicago has 120 water allocation partners so they move the needle a lot in terms of water conservation, pricing structures, pipe replacement. Lots of communities take lead from City of Chicago. Good for reporting, conservation, getting into communities doors. Will be presenting at their Feb meeting. Getting in door w City of Chicago - espec now w distributing to new communities like Joliet.		
7	Strengthen coastal resiliency with regional management	Meg Kelly meg.kelly@illinois.gov	25%	Ongoing	Continued engagement with the Shoreline Management Working Group; continued partnership with the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and their Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative to complete the North Shore Resilience Plan (due later this fall); continued participation in USACE Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Study; participated in and supported community input meetings for the South Shore Resiliency Plan.		Staff capacity
8	Promote coastal tourism and recreation	Meg Kelly meg.kelly@illinois.gov	15%	Ongoing	CMP provides competitive grants that include improving access and recreation to Lake Michigan. In September, CMP awarded and finalized 16 grant agreements a total of \$1.1 million. CMP staff participated in several outreach events that promoted coastal recreation and education, including participation at the State Fair in August, and outreach event at Illinois Beach State Park and Rainbow Beach in September.		Staff capacity
9	Protect and restore coastal habitats	Meg Kelly meg.kelly@illinois.gov	5%	Ongoing	Various ongoing projects and initiatives. Monitoring continues with the Illinois Natural History Survey for the rubble ridge underwater breakwater project at Illinois Beach State Park. CMP submitted LOIs for three projects for NOAA's 2025 BIL Habitat Restoration competition; one project has been invited for a full proposal - CMP is providing technical support to develop the application for \$5.7M in restoration funds; currently working to develop an advisory group for CMP's Coastal Clean Waters program to inform priority projects to improve water quality in the coastal zone.		Staff capacity
10	Evaluate feasibility of alternative energy in Lake MI and define acceptable locations	loren.wobig@illinois.gov	90%				Need to understand who is responsible for organizing the workgroup, moving this forward
Flood Damage Mitigation Terra McParland - terra.mcparland.@illinois.gov							
1	Update rainfall data by modeling future/seasonal data changes	Glenn Heistand heistand@illinois.edu	100%	3/1/2025	Report was published in March 2025. A summary was presented at the 2025 Annual IAFSM Conference and notices have been added to a few flood newsletters.	Funded	1

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2	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	23%	6/30/2027	New contract was finalized for FY25 through FY27 for work to continue. The items to track in the geodatabase and the map prototype were approved. A template form was developed for soliciting data inputs. Selected for IAFSM to present about this tool.	FY26 - \$35,000, FY27 - \$40,000 then \$10,000 annually	Funding required past FY24	4
3	Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	5%	12/31/2030	IEEMA is in process of developing a new GIS tool to show rainfall informed inundation mapping. Meetings held with OWR and ISWS for input.	UNK	Funding availability for new program	7
4	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	28%	12/31/2030	New contract was finalized for FY25 through FY27 for work to continue. Coordination meetings have been held. IL River mapping to be completed first.	\$20,000 annually	OWR GIS staffing availability and funding past FY24	3
5	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	25%	12/31/2030	FY25/26 projects - Des Plaines River Ph 1, Lower Rock River. Future approved projects - Upper Rock River. New contract was finalized for FY25/FY27 for ISWS work to continue. Future project proposals submitted - Des Plaines Ph 2, Cache River, Sangamon River, awaiting approval	\$60,000 annually	OWR GIS/survey staffing availability and funding past FY24	2
6	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2026	Awaiting staff ability to overlay underserved communities with flood maps.		OWR staffing availability.	6
7	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	75%	12/31/2025	USGS included a pilot urban flood warning system project as part of the NGWOS for the Illinois River. The project was installed in Harwood Heights, IL. Project is up and running thru end of NGWOS (2029). Next step is to develop a How To guide to share for other communities that want to employ a similar warning system.	\$25,000 annually	Need to determine who will pay for and maintain sensors. If state agency, funding reqd.	5
8	Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030		TBD annual	Need staffing/funding for new program.	8
9	Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	5%	12/31/2030		TBD one time	Need staffing/funding to develop tool	9
10	Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	None. (Waiting for Item 6 completion).	TBD annual	Need Item 6 completed. Need staffing/funding for new program.	12
11	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2025	None (Waiting for Item 10 completion).	\$200,000 annually	Need Item 10 completed. Need more staffing for OWR Design group.	13
12	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2027	None. (Waiting for Item 11 completion).	\$2-5,000,000 annually	Need item 11 completed. Need capital funding and for staffing new program.	14
13	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2026		\$200,000 annually	Need funding for new grant program and staffing	11
14	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	75%	12/31/2028	Statewide Building codes are in effect starting 1/1/25. Energy Codes are adopted but not Green Codes.		Need partner support and maybe legislation passed.	15
15	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	None.	\$100,000 annually	Staffing to develop outreach materials, Local Assistance program to be funded, WR-SRF to be established	10
Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Brian Metzke - brian.metzke@illinois.gov							Updated 9/30/2025
1	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Agency coordination.	
2	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
3	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	10%	tbd	Template plan developed by American Rivers (with IDNR input). No lead agency or staff identified for plan development. No grant mechanism identified.	\$300,000 for plan development. Unknown funding	Staff availability. Funding.	
4	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	10%	tbd	Legislation to fund activities related to NLRS introduced.	unknown	Legislative process.	
5	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
6	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Flood laws.	
7	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
8	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Requires study to identify monitoring needs.	
9	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource need identified. Implementation requires funding.	\$6,820,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding. Requires study to identify monitoring needs.	
10	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	CTAP sunseting. Requires new monitoring program. Resource needs under development.	~\$450,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding.	

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11	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	CTAP sunseting. Requires new monitoring program. Resource needs under development.	~\$250,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding.	
12	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource need identified. Implementation requires funding.	\$6,250,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding.	
13	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource need identified. Implementation requires funding.	\$600,000 to develop database	Staff availability. Inter-agency coordination	
14	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	\$500,000	Staff availability. Funding.	
15	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	33%	next milestone: 12/31/2028	Biological Stream Characterization grading and Biologically Significant Streams identification completed. Methods for characterizing biological condition developed. Project to develop multi-taxa biological index begins Q3 2025. Still needs lake index development project.	\$461,500 applied, \$511,300 for 2nd project	Projects underway.	
16	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
17	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
18	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Requires recommendation 14 complete.	
19	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	50%	tbd	Passed by IL House, but stalled in Senate.	n/a	Legislative process.	
20	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	20%	tbd	Proposed legislation (Illinois HB5386 and SB771; Wetland Protection Act) would protect wetlands not regulated by federal Clean Water Act. Proposal identifies that the SWPTF may be consulted during development of Administrative Rules. Project to identify extent of non-jurisdictional wetlands underway.	\$500,000	Staff availability. Legislative process.	
Water Use Laws & Regulations							
Steve Altman - steve.altman@illinois.gov							
1	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	10%	12/31/2030	OWR is looking to hold public outreach event to gain feedback regarding on potential modifications to the language. (10-1-2025) Internal and intergency discussions on Water Use Act Amendment started in 2024.	N/A		Updated 10/3/2025
2	Steve Altman	100%	3/7/2023	HB 3046 has passed out of committee (3/7/2023). Since recommendation dealt with introduction of legislation, the status was marked as complete.			
3	Steve Altman Steve.Altman@illinois.gov	0%					
4	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	5%	12/31/2030	With IDNR funding, an initial groundwater governance survey was conducted by CMAP and IISG. This work should be continued to come up with recommendations for Illinois groundwater governance options when funding is available. (01-03-2024) In November 2023, Mahomet Aquifer Consortium (MAC) made a proposal for a			
5	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	10%	12/31/2030	This task could be completed with updating State Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. (10-5-2023) In September 2023, OWR participated Midwest DEWS Drought Planning Discussion organized by Midwest Dews/NIDIS, where Missouri and Iowa updated status on their state drought plans. (4-15-2024) Drought			
6	Zhenxing Zhang zhang538@illinois.edu	5%	12/31/2030	ISWS has hired personnel to increase Agricultural water reporting. Increased reporting is said to be up 25%. (10-1-2025) Changed the contact of task to ISWS program leader.	tbd		
7	EPA	20%		SB 771 passed committee but did not make it to vote yet. Could come up for vote in veto session.	N/A		
Navigation							
Brian McCoy - Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov							
1	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing: Illinois 2023 Competitive Freight Program \$203 million, up to 30% of funding can go to intermodal (rail, water) projects (over \$15 million per year for FY23-FY26). 6 of 7 marine projects awarded, total of 13 projects awarded since 2018 amounting in over \$31 Mil federal funds awarded. February 2024 IDOT State Planning and Research Program call for projects; 18 marine plans/studies awarded since 2018 Port Facilities Capital Investment Grant Program 13 of 23 Projects Awarded 2021 2024 PIDP Illinois Awards: 1) Hennepin, IL Barge Terminal and Soybean Logistics Asset Project (\$38,582,711); 700-foot loading dock, conveyor systems, and storage systems for soybean products. 2) Hardin Illinois River Terminal Elevator Project (\$9,000,000); construction of two new storage bins, loadout conveyor belt, river cell loading tower, 11 mooring dolphins, replace scale house, and road improvements. * full list of awarded projects see this press release link: https://www.maritime.dot.gov/sites/marad.dot.gov/files/2024-11/PIDP%202024%20Project%20Descriptions.pdf 10/1/2025 IDOT Local Roads Program awarded 4 ports and waterway grants totaling \$4.8 Million 	Need a consistent state funded annual appropriation to support IMTS capital needs.		1
2	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2024, Authorization 12/3/2024: Inland Waterways Non-Fed match is going from 35% to 25%. Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) 205 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Released: Application Deadline is September 10, 2025, \$450 million available. Numerous port infrastructure-eligible discretionary federal grants available from the BIL through FY2025 			2
3	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) is a long-term program of ecosystem restoration and navigation improvements for the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). NESP will improve system capacity and reduce commercial traffic delays through the construction of seven new 1,200-foot locks, mooring cells, and switch boat implementation. https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP.aspx Annual Funding appropriated for Funding for Lagrange (Lock 8), Brand Road. \$732mil funded for L&D 25 to construct 1200' Chamber. in 65% review stage 	FY25 Backlog of Maintenance: Mississippi \$1,066,691,000 Illinois \$1,009,093,000 Kaskaskia	Given recent funding with IJJA, lock and dam projects are underway. However, funding for Lock and Dam maintenance, expansion, and replacement projects are limited. Annual appropriations provide some	3

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Task	Task Contact	Est. % Comp.	Est. Date Comp.	Description of Status	Funding Needs	Restrictions / Obstructions	Priority	
4	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	TBD	Include policies for the Bureau of Bridges and Structures, Bureau of Local Roads and Streets, and Bureau of Design and Environment to implement policies to include adequate container on barge clearance in plans for new bridges over navigable waterways.		Further investigation and significant infrastructure investment will be needed to regain the swing gate operation of the bridges. Coordination with the BNSF and USACE is needed.	4	
5	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILWW Transportation Study RFP awarded 6/25/2025. The project will provide an updated IMTS Directory and Multi-Modal Rates and Charges Data Resource that includes barge transportation cost information. The study will also complete a marine system needs assessment. IL State Freight Plan Published Fall 2023. IL Long Range Transportation Plan Update is underway IDOT Hosted in Partnership with MARAD, a Grant Application Workshop in Chicago on Nov 20-21, 2024. 			5	
6	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing: Annual dredging operations are fully utilized due to low water events and long-term programmed channel maintenance projects. USACE is completing the construction of channel structures to help maintain channel depth. Low water events back up barge traffic, increase difficulty navigating river bends, increase fuel consumption, and increase frequency of barge groundings. Consideration of channel depth increase to 12ft to mitigate annual fall low water events. Continued monitoring and encouragement of USACE dredging efforts.</p> <p>Continued push for more cohesive reservoir and water resource management.</p> <p>Become involved in the LMR and Missouri River studies that are in progress.</p> <p>Channel Patrol: https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Surveys/Channel-Patrol/</p> <p>Dredge Surveys: https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Surveys/Dredge.aspx</p>			6	
7	BJ Murray BJ.Murray@Illinois.gov	100%	Study Published 11/30/2022	Completed Nov 2022			Complete	
8	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 IL EPA awarded \$93 million from the US EPA Clean Ports Program: with a large portion of the funds being awarded to IL International Port District Equipment. IDOT has policies built into the planning and design phase to review a project's environmental compliance. Each project must meet environmental requirements before proceeding. IMTS staff serves on the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council and collaborates with regional and national environmental advocacy groups. FY23 IDOT funded the Resiliency Improvement Plan FY24 IDOT funded the Illinois International Port District Infrastructure Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan 			7	
9	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Port Districts authorized to operate designated areas in Illinois. 2 PDs exist only with legislation. Rock Island Port District was established with the passing of legislation on 6/7/2023. 6/30/2023 the IL Governor signed IL Waterways Ports Commission Act. Collaborate with Stakeholders in over 250+ Associations, Committees, and Local, Regional, State and Federal Agencies Maintain annual memberships with Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors' and Premiers, National Waterway Conference. 			8	
10	BJ Murray BJ.Murray@Illinois.gov	100%	10/1/2022	Brian McCoy onboarded to the IMTS section			Complete	
Erosion & Sedimentation								
Brian Rennecker - brian.rennecker@illinois.gov								Updated 10/9/2025
1		0%						
2		0%						
3	Brain Renencker	0%		Information from Elliot needed.				
4	Christine Davis Christine.Davis@Illinois.gov	15%	Ongoing	The Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) houses and has the central role in continuing development of the manual. The process of manual maintenance and development is funded primarily by Section 319 and Section 604b grants provided by the IEPA. The IUM Update Partnership continues to update the manual through development of new and updated practice standards and specifications related to soil erosion sediment control, stormwater management, water quality and green infrastructure. Updating is ongoing and continuous and the IEPA expects to continue it's support for the IUM manual.				
5		0%						
6	Brian Rennecker	75%	8/31/2026	IDOA has signed an agreement with IL NRCS for a Conservation Planning Assistance pilot program.	\$3.5M		9	
7	Brian Rennecker	0%						
8		0%						
9		0%						

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10	Expand funding to install conservation practices in areas where valid complaint has been filed	0%					
11	Identify and monitor marginal land use	0%					
12	Expand outreach efforts about success of infield and edge-of-field practices	50%	12/31/2026	IDOA has partnered with other NOG's in a pilot project located in Knox county for a batch and build edge of field model.			6
13	Establish Watershed Councils to reduce nutrient levels	0%					
14	Establish Watershed Protection grant program	0%					
15	Identify and secure federal funding for soil erosion and sedimentation reduction efforts	25%	Ongoing	IDOA has executed RCPP agreements which address eroision and sedimentation reduction efforts. The IL Climate-Smart Agricultural partnership has expaded the use of conservation cropping systems in Illinois by leveraging "Climate-Smart Agricultural Practcies". I-Cover will give cost/share dollars to producers for early implementation of cover crops using newer technologies.			7
16	Expand funding of SESC inspection program to allow more participation	0%					
17	Enroll more land into the CREP program	0%					
18	Develop new and expand existing incentives to encourage participation in soil conservation practices	100%	Ongoing	IDOA in conjunction with IL-Corn Growers have combined efforts towards NRCS-EQIP for additional funding for producers in identified priority areas which will address wind eroision along west, east and central Illinos' interstate systems.			5
19	Expand research to outline conservation economics and BMPs	0%					
20	Update IUM to include new technology and maintain accuracy	0%					
21	Expand funding to support the NLRs programs	50%		IEPA Gulf Hypoixa funds for Fall Covers for Spring Savings.			4
22	Expand groundwater monitoring of nutrient loss strategies	0%					
23	Initiate conservation management program	0%					
24	Expand IDOA staffing to assist in conservation efforts	75%	Ongoing	Bureau of Land and Water Resources is at 91% staffing compacity and due to additional federal agreements and grants will be needing additional staffing to address the additional workload.			8
25	Establish IDOA outreach/educational position	0%					

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Task	Task Contact	Est. % Comp.	Est. Date Comp.	Description of Status	Funding Needs	Restrictions / Obstructions	Priority
Data Management							
Jason Zhang - zhang538@illinois.edu							
1	Assess streamgage network ability to meet current and future water data needs for everyone	Jason Zhang - zhang538@illinois.edu	5%		Task contact updated due to retirement. Developing a proposal & determine funding needs. ISWS has reported to IDNR-OWR about the scope of work and is working with IDNR to explore potential funds to support this study. ISWS may partially fund the study. (10/3/2025)		Updated 10/3/2025
2	Create working group to explore feasibility of Streamgaging Data Collaborative to secure funding for data	Jason Zhang - zhang538@illinois.edu	5%		Task contact updated due to retirement. ISWS and IDNR have discussed how the working group may be set up and is contacting USGS colleagues for contact information and current status of the historic USGS annual streamgage coordinator meeting. (10/3/2025)		
3	Develop central location to view data using IWIC	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	20%	0	Kickoff meeting held, coordination with Internet of Water to provide assistance in structure	0	0 2
Recreation							
Michael McClelland - Michael.McClelland@illinois.gov							
1	Enact Aquatic Conservation Stamp on licenses to fund ANS management		20%		Legislation was initiated in spring of 2020 and did not pass, has not been prioritized in subsequent years		
2	Create invasive species education center as part of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project		0%		Awaiting further plans of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to be established		
3	Maintain and improve state waterbody access and focus on underserved locations		35%		DJ/WB boating access projects are ongoing through the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program. Waiting on additional information to get % completion.		
4	Expand funding for BADD program to create boat access to public waterbodies with underserved focus		0%				
5	Increase angling opportunities on private property with focus on underserved locations	Mike McClelland Michael.McClelland@illinois.gov	23%		The Division of Fisheries implements Cooperative Fisheries Management agreements with private county and municipal entities that guarantee public access as part of the agreements. Seven Cooperative Fisheries Management agreements were initiated or completed in 2024.	Implementation of new Cooperative Fisheries Management Agreements is	
6	Develop mobile app with multitude of angling information		0%		The Division of Fisheries is currently updating the ifishillinois website and division database as a precursor to a mobile app. Updated website launch is scheduled for November 2025 and database is scheduled for July 2026.		
7	Outreach about waterway access laws & regulations		0%		Digital mapping for waterbody public access delineation will be initiated in 2025.		
8	Develop a webpage and mobile app focused on low-head dam safety and navigation	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	10%		The IDNR OWR has developed a draft GIS based website for dam safety. This could be a start since it will include all dams on public water	Waiting for Stream Restoration Position to filled, starting 10/16/25	
9	Develop a new program to allow access for non-motorized boating on private property		5%		Discussed developing OAR program to allow private leasing for public water access	Funding & staff for implementing program	